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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/488,470	01/20/2000	Neelakantan Sundaresan	AM9-99-0199	4484

7590 07/30/2002

Samuel A. Kassatly
6819 Trinidad Drive
San Jose, CA 95120

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, TAM V

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2172	

DATE MAILED: 07/30/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/488,470

Applicant(s)

SUNDARESAN, NEELAKANTAN

Examiner

Tam V Nguyen

Art Unit

2172

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 May 2002.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____. 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-24 are pending in this action. Claims 1-24 are presented for examination. This office action is in response to the Amendment dated 5/28/02.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-24 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lang et al. (US 6314420B1).

With respect to claims 1, 9, and 17, Lang discloses an on-line ranking system for receiving rating data compiled from an on-line source based on interactive criteria that include feedback from users about businesses of interest to a particular user, (col. 5, lines 51-col. 6, lines 4, col. 24, lines 63-col. 25, lines 5, and col. 7, lines 47-62).

Lang does not clearly disclose, "wherein the rating data correlates higher quality matches to higher business satisfaction rating"; however, Lang shows the operation of conventional search engines at portal web sites, user queries are searched on demand

to find relevant informons across the web. Content-based filtering is typically used in measuring the relevancy of informons, and the search results are presented in the form of a list informons ranked by relevancy, (col. 23, lines 23-38 and col. 16, lines 48-col. 17, lines 10). Therefore, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the rating data correlates higher quality matches to higher business satisfaction rating in Lang so it satisfies the user's information need.

Lang further discloses wherein the on-line ranking system indexes the rating data, (col. 24, lines 63-col. 25, lines 5 and col. 22, lines 36-64); an on-line ranking repository for storing the rating data indexed by the on-line ranking system, (col. 1, lines 65-col. 2, lines 3 and col. 22, lines 36-64); and a result sorter for sorting query results generating by the search engine, based on the rating data from the on-line ranking repository, and for generating ranked matches, (col. 24, lines 49-col. 25, lines 5 and col. 23, lines 33-38).

As to claims 2, 10, and 18, further including a search results transformer that converts the ranked matches to a user browsable form, (col. 23, lines 39-65).

As to claims 3, 11, and 19, further including an indexing engine that indexes web documents to generate indexed data, (col. 12, lines 21-38 and col. 24, lines 49-col. 25, lines 5).

As to claims 4, 12, and 20, further including a metadata repository for storing web documents that have been downloaded on-line, (col. 1, lines 1-34).

As to claims 5, 13, and 21, further including a query transformer which, when prompted by a query, applies a query request to the indexed data and generates the query results, (col. 23, lines 54-col. 25, lines 5).

As to claims 6, 14, and 22, wherein the on-line source includes an on-line feedback with annotations, (col. 23, lines 54-col. 25, lines 5).

As to claims 7, 15, and 23, wherein the on-line source includes any one or more of a questionnaire, a survey, or a web based rating service, (col. 7, lines 47-63).

As to claims 8, 16, and 24, wherein the interactive criteria assess the quality of a business in terms of any one or more of: customer satisfaction, professionalism, cost, and ease of use of a product or service, (col. 4, lines 3-29 and col. 5, lines 51-col. 6, lines 4).

Conclusion

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Contact Information

6. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tam V Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-3735. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30AM-5: 00PM.

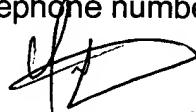
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone is unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Yen Vu can be reached on (703) 305-4393. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7239 for formal communications and (703) 746-7240 for informal communications.

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22202. Fourth Floor (Receptionist).

7. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

TV:tv

07/25/02



JEAN M. CORRIELUS
PRIMARY EXAMINER